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#### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

Upon the removal of the Academy to its present location in 1876, the President, Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger, prepared a brief history of the institution, with a summary of its collections and publications, which appeared in the popular guide to the Museum in that year.

Subsequently throughout his term of office, Dr. Ruschenberger presented a President's annual report, the last appearing in the *Proceedings* for 1881.

His successors having discontinued this practice, there has been no summarized account of the operations of the Academy during the past twenty years, and it is my purpose to present such a *résumé* in the following pages.

During this period three members have occupied the President's chair, Dr. Joseph Leidy, Gen. Isaac J. Wistar and Dr. Samuel G. Dixon. William S. Vaux, Thomas Meehan, Henry C. McCook and Arthur Erwin Brown have served as Vice-Presidents; William C. Henzey, Isaac C. Martindale, Charles P. Perot and George Vaux, Jr., as Treasurers; George H. Horn and Benjamin Sharp as Corresponding Secretaries, while Edward J. Nolan has continued as Recording Secretary and Librarian throughout the entire period.

To the membership there have been added 505 names, while 374 have been lost by resignation or death. Among the latter are many of the Academy's staunchest supporters, to whom her present prosperous condition is largely due, and many of her most brilliant students, who by their labors have spread her reputation to all parts of the world.

During this period the regular weekly meetings of the Academy have been held, the attendance decreasing as natural history became more and more specialized. Verbal communications of importance have been made both by members and visitors, and various explorers have by request presented reports of their expedi-

tions before the society. The specialists have continued to hold their independent meetings with most satisfactory results. Of late years, by a mutual arrangement, the several Sections have been given precedence at certain specified meetings of the Academy, with the object of bringing before the general meetings the more important communications presented at the less formal Section meetings.

With the object of fostering and encouraging small scientific organizations, especially those composed of younger students, the Academy has freely granted the use of its halls for meetings, and during the past decade the Geographical Society, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Philadelphia Botanical Club, Students' Mineralogical Club, Students' Entomological Society, Mycological Club, Leidy Association, Philadelphia Moss Chapter, Wood's Hole Biological Association, Odontographical and Anti-Tuberculosis Societies and Pennsylvania Audubon Society have availed themselves of this privilege, thus bringing many people in touch with the Academy and eventually adding to its membership.

Besides these organizations, a number of State and National societies have, during this period, been invited to hold their conventions in the building, notably the American Society of Naturalists, in 1891; the Pennsylvania Veterinarian Society, in 1894; and the American Ornithologists' Union, in 1899.

The *Proceedings* and *Journal* of the Academy have been issued continuously since 1881, as previously. Twenty-one volumes of the former and four of the latter have appeared, comprising in all 12,100 pages. These contain contributions not only from the members of the Academy, but from eminent scientists from various parts of America and Europe.

During the past twenty years the *Proceedings* have been sent in exchange to a constantly increasing list of scientific societies throughout the world. Beginning with the year 1900 the Academy, through its increased endowment, has been enabled to distribute the volumes to its members, a course that had long been desired. There have also been issued from the Academy and allied societies the *Transactions* of the American Entomological Society, the *Entomological News*, and the *Manual of Conchology*, while the *Nautilus* has been edited by the Conservator of the Conchological Section.

In 1885 the Committee on Lectures and Instruction established an annual series of lectures by men of eminence in various branches of science, as well as afternoon classes conducted by the Academy's professors. For both series a charge was made to cover expenses. These courses were held annually until the winter of 1896-7, when a proposition was made by the Ludwick Institute, whereby the Committee of the Academy should coöperate with the Institute in arranging courses of lectures on natural science and allied subjects, to be given in the Academy's Lecture Hall and to be free to the public, though primarily for the benefit of public school teachers, the Ludwick Institute bearing all the expenses.

Under this arrangement six to eight courses of five lectures each have been given annually by members of the Academy.

The Jessup Fund, originally established in 1860 for the assistance of young men fitting themselves for scientific work, has during the past twenty years aided many students, who have in turn rendered most important assistance to the Academy in the care and arrangement of collections. In 1888, Mrs. Clara Jessup Moore established a similar fund of \$5,000 for the assistance of young women, three having up to this time profited by this endowment.

From 1890 to 1899 a medal and cash payment were annually bestowed by the Academy upon the geologist who had accomplished the most meritorious work during the year. Since then a gold medal has been awarded triennially. This award, known as the Hayden Memorial, is secured by a fund given by Mrs. Hayden in memory of her husband, Dr. F. V. Hayden.

Up to the year 1900 the Academy's growth had far exceeded its endowment. The funds at the disposal of the institution were entirely consumed in the expenses incident to supporting the museum, the publications and the library. The salaried assistance was wholly inadequate to the needs of the institution, and, as previously, most of the work of arranging and caring for the collections was performed voluntarily or by students of the Jessup Fund. Members had always been most liberal in contributing to special funds for the purchase of collections, but the Endowment Fund, owing to the broadening of the work of the Academy, became yearly less adequate.

Since 1890, however, the Academy has received liberal bequests,

which have been of the utmost importance in the consummation of plans for future development.

George S. Pepper, in 1900, bequeathed to the Academy \$25,000 and a percentage of his residuary estate, the amounts to be held in trust, the income only to be applied to the uses of the institution.

The James Aitken Meigs Fund was erected on the legacy of John G. Meigs, of \$20,000, and the library of his son, James Aitken Meigs, M.D., a former Librarian of the Academy. Ten thousand dollars of this was left for the care and increase of the library and the remainder without condition.

From Miss Anna T. Jeanes was received the gift of \$20,000, to be known as the Mary Jeanes Fund, the interest to be used for the care and increase of the museum.

In addition to amounts noted in earlier reports, \$16,650 have been received from the Henry N. Johnson estate for the general purposes of the Academy.

Robert T. Lamborn, M.D., who died in 1895, bequeathed his estate to the Academy, "to be used in biological and anthropological researches, the income only to be used and the principal reinvested." A question as to the validity of the will under the New York State law having been raised by the heirs-at-law, a compromise was effected on the basis of one-half the estate coming to the Academy and the balance to them. Up to the present time \$365,000 have been realized for the society. A conservative estimate places the value of the Academy's portion of the estate at half a million.

Charles E. Smith, in 1900, bequeathed his botanical books, maps, collections and one-sixth part of the sum realized from the sale of real and personal property, the interest accruing from such sum to be applied to and expended on maintenance and for no other purpose whatever. Twenty-five thousand dollars have been realized from this source to date, with the certainty of important additions in the future.

As soon as the earlier of these legacies became available, steps were at once taken to broaden the work of the institution in various directions. The *Proceedings* were distributed to members; the salaries of the scientific staff were increased; three new assistants engaged; improvements were made to the buildings; new cases were substituted for those originally erected in the museum, and important additions to the shelving capacity of the library were

provided. The work of expansion is still in progress, and to understand properly the advance that has been made it is necessary to revert again to the removal of the Academy to its present quarters in 1876.

At that time only a part of the building as originally planned had been completed, and the collections and library of the Academy even then practically filled all the available space. The constant increase during the subsequent ten years caused such overcrowding that the systematic arrangement of the museum became an impossibility, and much valuable material was practically inaccessible.

In 1889 and 1891 two appropriations of \$50,000 each were secured from the State Legislature. These sums, together with private subscriptions, made possible the much-needed additions to the premises. The Lecture Hall was completed the following year, and formally opened on February 22, 1892. Lectures previously given in the Library have since then been delivered in the new Hall, which has been furnished with a lantern and screen and seating accommodations for 350 persons.

The new wing of the museum was not completed until some years later and was finally opened on October 20, 1896.

Owing to the lack of funds only two floors could then be opened, and only a part of one of them was furnished with new cases. Since then, however, new cases of plate glass with oak or mahogany woodwork have almost entirely replaced the old ones on these floors, as well as in portions of the old building, and the furnishing of the third floor of the new Museum is so far advanced that it will be opened during the coming year.

In the character and care of the various collections the greatest changes have taken place, mainly since the recent increase in our endowment, though in several departments the plans were laid and work begun several years ago. The old idea of exhibiting every specimen has been dispensed with, and the need of study collections of large series of specimens has been recognized.

Large numbers of birds and mammals, especially types and unique specimens, have been unmounted and stored in moth-proof cabinets, free from light and dust, and their preservation insured. These have been arranged in the study rooms, where they can be easily examined, while still larger numbers of similar study specimens have been added by purchase and gift. A corresponding

arrangement of the mollusca has also been instituted. The entire series of alcoholics has been removed from the exhibition rooms and placed in compactly arranged cases in the basement, where some 100,000 specimens are within easy reach of the student who desires to consult them, being at the same time largely shielded from the light, the great destroyer of pigment. For exhibition there is being installed by the liberality of Mr. Clarence B. Moore a series of plaster casts of snakes, colored and mounted amid natural surroundings, which are far more instructive to the general public than the alcoholics that have been removed.

In the Botanical department the modern plan of mounting the specimens upon uniform standard herbarium sheets, begun some time ago, has been finished during the present year, with the exception of certain special collections.

The museum catalogues are the work of recent years. In 1893 uniform catalogues were provided for all departments, except Entomology and Botany. In some only the accessions since that date have been entered, but in the cases of the mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes and minerals every specimen has been numbered and entered in its respective catalogue. In the case of disarticulated skeletons every bone has been numbered.

These catalogues are necessarily only accession lists, but a systematic card catalogue of the mammals has been prepared, showing at a glance exactly what the Academy possesses in this department of the museum.

The character of the exhibition specimens has also been much improved. In 1892, a taxidermist was employed and all mammals and birds since prepared for exhibition have been mounted in the most approved manner. A large number of mammals have been prepared during the past ten years, and so far as the larger forms are concerned, they have replaced the grotesque and faded stuffed specimens of earlier years, while a local collection of birds, mounted in groups, with nests and eggs, has replaced the old series.

The Academy's efforts of late years have been mainly devoted to the renovation of the museum, the increase of the collections and library, and the expansion of the publications. Nevertheless, a number of expeditions have been sent out in its interest through

special subscriptions, while many private individuals have contributed results of their explorations to the institution.

Under the former head may be mentioned the expeditions to Bermuda in 1888, Mexico in 1890, under the leadership of Angelo Heilprin; the Greenland Expeditions of 1891 and 1892; Prof. Cope's trip through the fossil beds of the West in 1893, and many minor collecting trips.

Among private expeditions may be mentioned those of Dr. Benjamin Sharp to Hawaii and Alaska, Dr. W. L. Abbott to Africa, Dr. A. Donaldson Smith to Somaliland and Lake Rudolf, the Messrs. Farnum to Mongolia, while Mr. Alfred C. Harrison and Dr. H. M. Hiller are at present exploring Sumatra, partially in the Academy's interest.

Mr. Clarence B. Moore's archæological explorations in Florida and Georgia; the exploration of the Port Kennedy fossil deposit, in the years 1894-96, under the direction of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, assisted by Mr. H. C. Mercer; Mr. C. W. Johnson's expeditions to the Southern fossil beds, under the direction of Dr. L. T. Chamberlain, and Mr. Henry G. Bryant's expeditions to Labrador, Greenland and Alaska have also been productive of important results.

The increase in collections, especially since modern methods have been instituted in the Museum, has been so continuous and important that it is impossible even to summarize it in this brief space. Some idea, however, may be gained from the statements furnished by several special departments.

The Ornithological collection, which was formerly regarded as the Academy's most notable department, contained at the time of Dr. Ruschenberger's last report 24,000 specimens; to-day it numbers 46,000. The Conchological department since 1887 alone has added 30,000 lots to what was before regarded as the leading collection in the world. Other collections have increased at nearly the same rate, as illustrated by 6,000 additions to the department of reptiles, mainly the private collection of Prof. Edward D. Cope, and one prepared by Mr. A. E. Brown; 14,000 to the collection of butterflies; the William S. Vaux Collection of Minerals; the Isaac Lea Collection of eocene fossils, for which we are indebted to the Rev. Leander Trowbridge Chamberlain, D.D., and the Clarence B. Moore Archæological Collection.



Only passing mention has been made of the growth of the library, not because of any lack of development in this department, but because the Librarian purposes, in his annual report, to review the history of the library since the organization of the society. The development of this important section of the Academy, it will be seen, has kept pace with that of its other departments.

The present condition of the society, in its museum, its library and the work of its Publication Committee, is most encouraging, and gives every assurance of future success in maintaining the high standards established by the devoted men who have contributed so much intellectually and financially to the advancement of science.

SAMUEL G. DIXON,  
*President.*

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#### REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The meetings of the Academy have been held during the year with three intermissions, due to the lack of a quorum on July 30, August 13 and September 17. The average of attendance at the sessions that were held was sixteen. Verbal communications were made by Messrs. Rand, Rhoads, Pilsbry, Arthur E. Brown, Harshberger, Woolman, MacElwee, Sharp, Chapman, Dixon, Roseberger, U. C. Smith, Skinner, J. Cheston Morris, T. H. Montgomery, Calvert, Conklin, Seiss, Gerson, Keeley, J. P. Moore, Goldsmith, Lyman, Keller, Murlin, Stone, Palmer, Kraemer, Crawley, S. Brown, Ravenel and McCarthy. Interesting discussion occasionally followed these communications, the substance of which was frequently embodied in the more formal papers presented later for publication, hence but few of the verbal contributions to the meetings have been prepared for the published *Proceedings*.

Seven hundred and thirty pages of the *Proceedings*, with thirty-four plates, have been issued since the last report. The fourth number, or the conclusion of the eleventh volume of the *Journal*, consisting of ninety-eight pages, copiously illustrated by text figures, was also published, the expense of printing and illustra-